

I. INTRODUCTION

This disc presents the state estimates of personal income that were prepared by the Regional Economic Measurement Division of the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA). Data for 1969-2003 are presented for each state, the District of Columbia, the eight BEA regions, and the United States. Annual data by industry are presented by SIC two-digit industry for 1969-2000, by SIC one-digit industry for 2001, and by North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) three-digit industry for 2001-2003. Quarterly data by industry are presented by SIC division for 1969-2001 and by NAICS sector for 2001 to the present. The data are organized into the following tables:

- Annual income and employment summary (table SA04);
- Annual estimates of personal income by major component and of place-of-work earnings by industry (table SA05);
- Annual estimates of compensation of employees by industry by place of work for 1998-2003 (table SA06);
- Annual estimates of wage and salary disbursements by industry by place of work (table SA07);
- Annual estimates of number of jobs—both those held by employees and those held by sole proprietors and partners—by place of work by industry (table SA25);
- Annual estimates of number of jobs held by employees by place of work by industry (table SA27);
- An economic profile table that includes a selection of data from several of the other tables and component detail for dividends, interest, and rent (table SA30);
- Annual estimates of personal current transfer receipts by major program (table SA35);
- Annual estimates of farm income and expenses that include major categories of gross receipts and expenses for all farms and four measures of farm income (table SA45);
- Annual estimates of personal current taxes by level of government and by type (table SA50);
- Quarterly estimates of personal income by major component and of earnings by place of work by industry (table SQ5); and
- Quarterly estimates of wage and salary disbursements by place of work by industry (table SQ7).

The estimates of personal income and of per capita personal income incorporate the results of the comprehensive revision to the national income and product accounts (NIPAs) released in December 2003.

The estimates are first prepared for the Nation and then for the states. The estimates for the regions are aggregations of the state estimates.

This introduction presents a brief history of the development of the estimates of personal income. It describes the uses of the state estimates and the schedule for preparing and revising the estimates, and it presents information about the availability of the estimates and about the BEA User Group.

A brief history

In the mid-1930's, BEA began work on the estimation of regional income as part of the effort to explain the processes and structure of the Nation's economy. As a result, it produced annual state estimates of total "income payments to individuals." These income payments were calculated as the sum of (1) wages and salaries, (2) other labor income and relief, (3) entrepreneurial withdrawals, and (4) dividends, interest, and net rents and royalties.

During the 1940's and early 1950's, BEA developed an integrated set of national economic accounts, sought additional source data, and improved the methods used to prepare the estimates. One result of this work was the development of state personal income—a measure that is more comprehensive than state income payments.

State personal income differs significantly from state income payments in five ways:

- State personal income consists of six major components (supplements to wages and salaries, and personal current transfer receipts replaced other labor income and relief, and the component contributions for government social insurance was added as an explicit deduction);
- Personal income includes more component detail and a broader range of income-in-kind and imputed income items than state income payments;
- Personal income includes the income of nonprofit institutions that primarily serve individuals, private noninsured welfare funds, and private trust funds (collectively called quasi-individuals);
- Personal income includes employer contributions to private pension funds—as part of supplements to wages and salaries—instead of the benefits paid by the funds; and
- Personal income includes personal current transfer receipts by business.

In addition, in the mid-1950's, BEA began work on preparing estimates for local areas. It prepared estimates for a few counties in the states in the Mideast and Plains regions.

In the late 1950's, BEA developed estimates of state disposable personal income. This series was published occasionally in the *Survey of Current Business* in the 1960's and 1970's and has been presented annually beginning with 1982.

During the 1960's, BEA developed quarterly estimates of state personal income. The first set of these estimates as a continuous series was published in the December 1966 issue of the *Survey*. In addition, BEA prepared a personal income series for metropolitan areas and for nonmetropolitan counties for selected years 1929-62.

In the early 1970's, BEA developed the estimates of personal income for counties in metropolitan areas. These estimates were published for the first time in the April 1975 *Survey*. Later in the 1970's it developed estimates of employment for states, counties, and metropolitan areas.

In the 1980's, BEA developed estimates of gross state product by industry. These estimates as an established series were first presented in the May 1988 *Survey*.

Now, BEA prepares annual and quarterly estimates of state personal income and annual estimates of state disposable personal income and employment and of gross state product. It also prepares annual estimates of personal income and employment for all metropolitan areas and all the counties and county equivalents for which reliable source data are available.

Uses of the state estimates

The state estimates of personal income and its components, of per capita personal income, of disposable personal income, and of gross state product are widely used by both the public and the private sectors to measure and to track the levels and the types of incomes that are received by the people who live or work in a state and the value-added that a state's industries produce. These estimates provide a framework for the analysis of each state's economy, and they serve as a basis for decision making.

Federal agencies use these estimates in econometric models, such as those used to project energy and water use; they also use the estimates as a basis for allocating funds and for determining matching grants. For example, in fiscal year 1996, the distribution of \$122 billion in Federal funds was affected by the estimates of state per capita personal income. The estimates of gross state product are also used in the funds allocation formula for one program.

In addition, the Census Bureau uses the estimates of state per capita personal income as the key predictor variable in the preparation of state estimates of the mean annual income for four-person families.

State governments use the estimates of personal income and gross product to measure the economic base of state planning areas. They also use the estimates in econometric models that are developed for various planning purposes and to project tax revenues and the need for public utilities and for services. Currently, 17 states have set constitutional or statutory limits on state government revenues and spending that are tied to state personal income or to one of its components. These states account for almost one-half of the population of the United States. A majority of the states use the quarterly estimates of state personal income to project tax collections.

University schools of business and economics use the estimates for theoretical and applied economic research. Some of these schools distribute the estimates in abstracts or similar reports to various state and local government agencies, regional councils of governments, private research groups, businesses, and libraries.

Businesses use the estimates for planning activities, such as evaluating markets for new or established products and determining areas for the location, expansion, and contraction of their activities.

Release and publication schedule

The quarterly and annual estimates of state personal income and the annual estimates of local area personal income are first released on BEA's Web site at www.bea.gov and in news releases; the release dates are announced in advance and are listed on the Web site and in the *Survey of Current Business*.

The quarterly state estimates of total personal income are subsequently published in the January, April, July, and October issues of the *Survey*.

The preliminary annual state estimates of total and per capita personal income and of total and per capita disposable personal income are published in the April *Survey*. The revised annual estimates of state personal income by major type and of earnings by industry are published in the October *Survey*.

The local area estimates of total and per capita personal income are published in the May *Survey*.

Preparation and revision schedule

The quarterly estimates of state personal income are prepared about three months after the end of the quarter. The preliminary annual state estimates are prepared about three months after the end of the year, and the revised state estimates are prepared about eight months after the end of the year. The annual estimates of local area personal income are prepared about 16 months after the end of the year.

In December, the estimates of state personal income for the third quarter of the year are prepared, and the estimates of the first and second quarters are revised.

In March, the annual and quarterly state estimates for the three years before the previous year are revised in order to incorporate the newly available data for wages and salaries that are used to prepare the county estimates for those years and to reflect the county-level estimation of the adjustment for residence. In addition, the state estimates for the fourth quarter of the previous year are prepared, and the estimates for the first three quarters are revised; the preliminary annual state estimates for the previous year are prepared by averaging these quarterly estimates.

In April, the estimates of local area personal income for the year before the previous year are prepared, and the estimates for the 2 years before that are revised.

In June, the state estimates for the first quarter of the current year are prepared, and the estimates for the four quarters of the previous year are revised.

In September, the annual state estimates for the previous year are revised using the annual, rather than the quarterly, methodology, and the annual estimates for the 2 years before that are revised.

In September, the state estimates for the second quarter of the current year are prepared, and the estimates for the first quarter are revised. Further, the estimates for the quarters of the previous 3 years are revised for consistency with the revised annual estimates that were also released in September.

The state and local area estimates are normally revised again only after a comprehensive, or benchmark, revision of the national income and product accounts (NIPAs). Comprehensive revisions of the NIPAs are made approximately every 4 or 5 years.¹

In a comprehensive NIPA revision, the national estimates of personal income are affected by the statistical changes that result from the introduction of new source data and the use of improved estimating methods. The national estimates may also be affected by

¹ For the results of the latest comprehensive revision of the NIPAs, see Eugene P. Seskin and Daniel Larkins, "Improved Estimates of the National Income and Product Accounts for 1929-2002: Results of the Comprehensive Revision," *Survey of Current Business* 84 (February 2004): 7-29.

the definitional and classificatory changes that are made so that the NIPAs will reflect the evolving economy of the United states. For example, as part of the 1999 comprehensive revision, government employee retirement plans were reclassified out of social insurance, and their treatment was made similar to that of private pension plans. As a result, the subtraction of the employee contributions to the government plans and the payments of benefits to retirees from the plans were removed from the derivation of personal income. Instead, personal income now includes the employer contributions to the plans and the net investment income received by the plans.

Availability of the state and local area estimates

Before the state and local area estimates are published in the *Survey*, they are available in printed and electronic news releases.² More detailed estimates than the estimates published in the *Survey* are available on this SPI CD-ROM and, for the local area estimates, on the "Regional Economic Information System" CD-ROM.³

In addition, the state and local area estimates of personal income and of employment are available from the BEA User Group. The members of this group include state agencies, universities, and Census Bureau Primary State Data Centers.⁴ The members have agreed to provide the estimates that they receive from BEA to other users in their state; they can provide the estimates for their state and sometimes for other states.

² BEA's major national, regional, international, and industry estimates, recent issues of the *Survey*, and BEA news releases are available on BEA's web site: Go to www.bea.gov.

³ The 1969-2002 issue of the Regional Economic Information System CD-ROM was released in June, 2004.

⁴ See the list of the BEA User Group members under "Documentation" on this disc.